

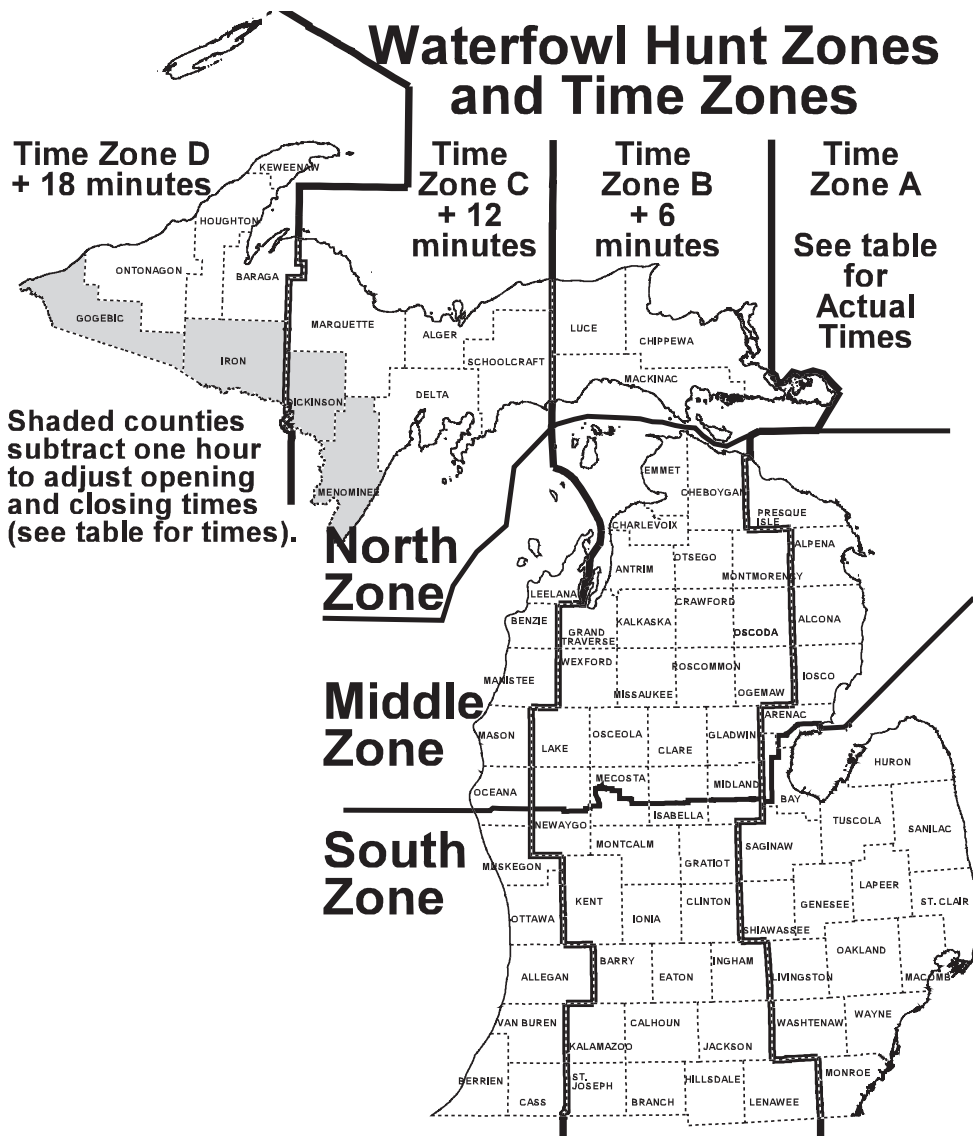
## Hunting Zones and Shooting Hours

Michigan's North Zone for waterfowl (ducks, coots, moorhens and geese) hunting includes all of the Upper Peninsula (see map below). The Middle Zone consists of the north half of the Lower Peninsula. The remainder of the Lower Peninsula is called the South Zone. Note: The late Canada goose season takes place only in the South Zone. The exact dividing line between the Middle and South Zones is described as follows:

That portion of the Lower Peninsula south of a line beginning at the Wisconsin border in Lake Michigan due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, easterly and southerly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to Michigan Highway 20, east along Michigan 20 to U.S. Highway 10 Business Route (BR) in the city of Midland, east along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, east along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, north along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, east along U.S. 23 to the centerline of the AuGres River, then southerly along the centerline of the AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canada border.

Below is the map with waterfowl (ducks, coots, moorhens and geese) hunting zones and all four of Michigan's Waterfowling time zones. If hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson or Menominee counties that are on Central Time, you must adjust the listed times to Central Time.

Add the minutes indicated below to the times listed in Zone A table on last page of guide for the correct shooting and hawking hours in Zones B, C and D.



## Managed Waterfowl Hunt Areas

Permits are issued at several managed areas by drawings held at area check stations. A \$4.00 daily or \$13.00 annual permit fee is charged for use of areas with the word (Fee) shown below. Permits can be purchased at check stations. The annual \$13.00 permit is accepted at all state areas. Some early season hunts are by reservation. Each year hunters may apply for reservations from August 1 through August 28 at license agents. Special rules are enforced, including shell limits, shot size limits, hunting party size, etc. Maps listing the special rules are available at the area check stations. Normal managed area drawings may be cancelled late in the season if extreme weather results in low hunter participation. Area managers will post amended check station hunting rules a minimum of two days prior to any changes. Late in the season, hunters may wish to call area headquarters to verify that drawings will be held. Use of waders, decoys, calls, retrievers (except Allegan) and small boats and motors is recommended. See below for additional details.

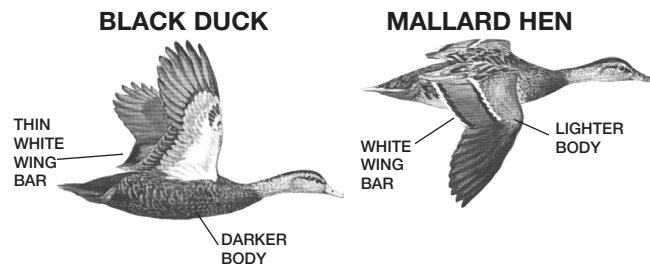
Area	County and Nearest Town	Telephone Number	Drawing Times (Reserved Hunting Dates)	Youth Hunting Dates <sup>a</sup>
ALLEGAN Highbanks and Fennville Farm	Allegan, Allegan	(269) 673-2430	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season (including Jan. 10) are at 5:30 a.m. at Fennville Farm check station for Farm/Highbanks hunts. Hunt Highbanks Saturday, Sunday, and Monday only. BRAVO Posts first-come, first-served through Fennville Farm drive in window. (Fee)	Nov. 8 (a.m.) and Jan. 10 (p.m.) non-reserved
FISH POINT	Tuscola, Unionville	(989) 674-2511	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are at 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee)	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 1 (p.m.) non-reserved
MUSKEGON COUNTY WASTEWATER	Muskegon, Twin Lake	(231) 788-5055 Call for opening date.	Hunts only on Tuesday (a.m.), Thursday (a.m.), Saturday (a.m. and p.m.) and Sunday (a.m. and p.m.) during the season. Drawings to select hunt zones are at 5:30 a.m. for morning and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. There will be no hunting Nov. 15-30.	Oct. 25 (a.m. and p.m.) non-reserved
NAYANQUING POINT	Bay, Linwood	(989) 697-5101	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee)	Opening day (p.m.) and Oct. 25 (p.m.) non-reserved
POINTE MOUILLEE	Monroe, South Rockwood	(734) 379-9692	Open hunting each day of season on most of game area. Managed Hunting Area permits issued opening day and Sunday and Wednesday only thereafter. Drawings these days are 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee)	Opening day (p.m.) and Nov. 2 (a.m.) non-reserved
SHIAWASSEE RIVER	Saginaw, St. Charles	(989) 865-6211	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are 5:00 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:00 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 8 (p.m.) non-reserved
SHIAWASSEE FEDERAL REFUGE	Saginaw, Saginaw	(989) 777-5930	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are 5:30 a.m. for morning hunt only. (Daily hunter charge is \$4.00.) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	NONE
ST. CLAIR FLATS (HARSENS IS.)	St. Clair, Algonac	(810) 748-9504	Drawings to select hunt zones each day of season are 5:30 a.m. for morning hunts and 11:30 a.m. for afternoon hunts. (Fee) (Reservations opening weekend of duck season)	Opening day (p.m.) reserved and Nov. 13 (p.m.) non-reserved

<sup>a</sup>Youth Hunt: Priority daily drawings are available for hunting parties with one or two parents or legal guardians 18 years of age or older and at least one youth 10-16. All youth participating in these priority hunts must be properly licensed to hunt. Only parties including youth hunters will be allowed to hunt at Allegan and ONLY Youths will be permitted to shoot during these hunts. The maximum party size for youth priority daily drawings is four.

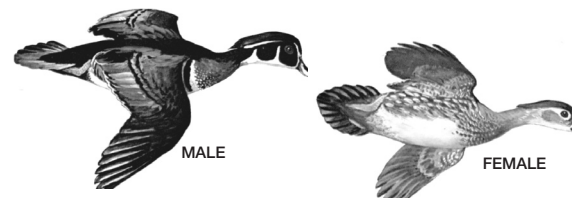
## Identifying Ducks

Skill at identifying ducks in flight is important to limit harvest of less numerous duck species. Species with special restrictions are as follows:

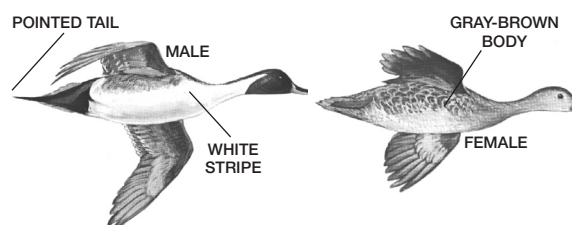
**Mallard Hen/Black Duck**—Both are restricted to one per day within the overall six-bird daily limit. Both birds have white underwings, but the black duck's darker body contrasts more sharply with the underwing than does the brown body of the female mallard. Mallards have white wing bars on both edges of the blue speculum. The black duck usually has none or only a thin white bar on the back edge of the speculum.



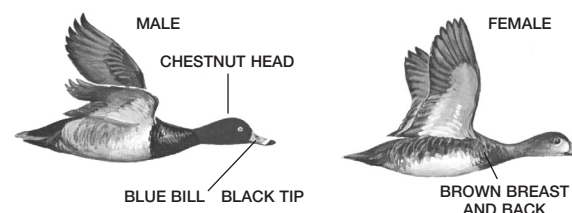
**Wood Duck**—This medium-sized duck frequents wooded ponds, streams and marshes statewide, especially early in the season. Drakes are very colorful, and hens and drakes have colorful wings with blue, maroon and silver hues. Calls are whistles and squeals. Three per day may be harvested.



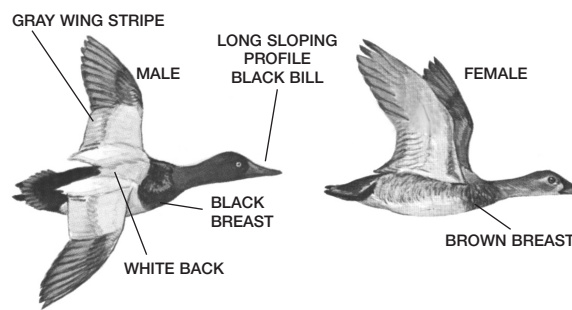
**Pintail**—Pintails are puddle ducks that frequent marshes. They are about the size of a mallard but slimmer in appearance. Few are well colored before December and most appear gray. The female wing speculum is cinnamon-colored, while the male speculum is green with a white trailing edge. **Only one pintail may be harvested per day during the 60-day open season.**



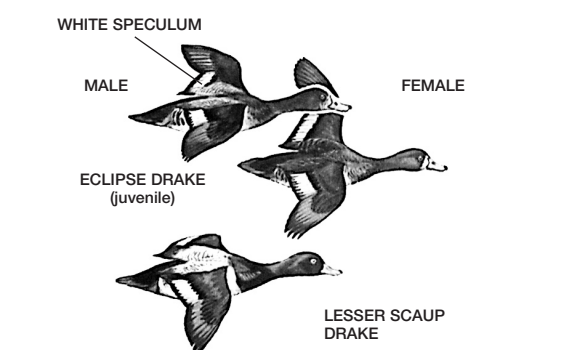
**Redhead**—This large diving duck has the shape of a mallard but is more uniformly brown or gray, with an unmarked gray wing speculum. Well-colored males have a chestnut red head. This bird frequents the open waters of large and small lakes like the canvasback. Two per day may be harvested.



**Canvasback**—This large, mallard-sized diving duck has a characteristic wedge-shaped head and is usually found on the open waters of large and small lakes. Well-colored males have a red head. **Canvasbacks may not be harvested.**



**Scaup**—These birds are medium to small diving ducks. Greater and lesser scaup (bluebill) appear nearly identical in the field, however the white band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the tip in the greater scaup, but only about half way in the lesser. **Scaup daily limit changes from one to two depending on the zone and season dates. See Seasons and Daily Limits Table.**



## Youth Waterfowl Weekend

Youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be September 20-21 statewide for properly licensed youths 10 to 15 years of age. The daily limit includes ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens. Youths must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated by their parent or guardian. The adult will not be allowed to hunt ducks, mergansers, coots, or moorhens and will not be required to have a waterfowl hunting license. The daily limits and species restrictions are the same as those allowed in the regular season. Daily shooting hours are listed in the Migratory Bird Hunting Hours Table.

## License and Waterfowl Stamp Requirements

To hunt migratory waterfowl in Michigan you must have a small game hunting license. Persons age 16 and older also must have a **Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License (\$5.00)** and a **Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp\* (\$15.00)**.

The HIP endorsement (see HIP information in this guide) is required for all persons hunting migratory birds.

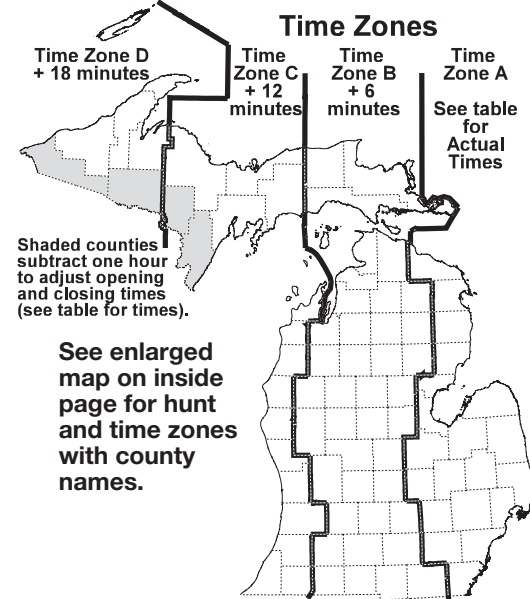
- Small game license options (only one required).**
- Resident small game license \$15.00
  - Resident senior small game license \$6.00
  - Resident junior small game license \$1.00
- (These licenses are not required for a resident, resident's spouse, or resident's children to hunt on their enclosed farmland on which they live.)
- Nonresident small game license \$69.00
  - Nonresident 3-day small game license \$30.00

\*The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp must be signed with your name across the face in ink. It is available at post offices and some Michigan license agents. All other items are available from license dealers or online from the DNR Web site: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## Dioxin Advisory Information

Waterfowl hunters are encouraged to see page 17 of the 2008 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for consumption advisories associated with wood ducks and Canada geese taken in the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland. Samples of wild game taken in 2007 from these areas contained high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds in muscle meats, skin and other consumable portions.

Thank you for purchasing a Michigan hunting license. Your hunting license dollars help restore and improve habitats for wildlife species, advance research on wildlife and wildlife-borne diseases, foster programs that help ensure access for public hunting, support hunter safety education and much more. We encourage you to keep hunting and to share your experiences with others. In doing so, you can do your part to keep our state's hunting heritage alive for future generations.



### Zone A. Hunting Hours Table.

One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (adjusted for daylight-saving time).

	2008						2009							
	September		October		November		December		January		February		March	
Date	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
1	6:28	8:06	7:00	7:13	7:36	6:25	7:12	5:01	7:32	5:11	7:16	5:47	6:37	6:23
2	6:29	8:04	7:01	7:11	7:38	6:24	7:14	5:00	7:32	5:12	7:15	5:48	6:36	6:24
3	6:30	8:02	7:02	7:10	6:39	5:23	7:15	5:00	7:32	5:12	7:14	5:49	6:34	6:25
4	6:31	8:00	7:03	7:08	6:40	5:21	7:16	5:00	7:32	5:13	7:13	5:51	6:33	6:26
5	6:32	7:59	7:04	7:06	6:41	5:20	7:17	5:00	7:32	5:14	7:11	5:52	6:31	6:27
6	6:33	7:57	7:05	7:04	6:43	5:19	7:17	5:00	7:32	5:15	7:10	5:53	6:29	6:29
7	6:34	7:55	7:07	7:03	6:44	5:18	7:18	5:00	7:31	5:16	7:09	5:55	6:28	6:30
8	6:35	7:54	7:08	7:01	6:45	5:17	7:19	5:00	7:31	5:17	7:08	5:56	7:26	7:31
9	6:36	7:52	7:09	6:59	6:46	5:16	7:20	5:00	7:31	5:19	7:07	5:57	7:24	7:32
10	6:37	7:50	7:10	6:58	6:48	5:15	7:21	5:00	7:31	5:20	7:05	5:59	7:23	7:33
11	6:39	7:48	7:11	6:56	6:49	5:14	7:22	5:00	7:30	5:21	7:04	6:00		
12	6:40	7:47	7:12	6:54	6:50	5:13	7:23	5:00	7:30	5:22	7:03	6:01		
13	6:41	7:45	7:13	6:53	6:51	5:12	7:23	5:00	7:30	5:23	7:01	6:02		
14	6:42	7:43	7:15	6:51	6:53	5:11	7:24	5:00	7:29	5:24	7:00	6:04		
15	6:43	7:41	7:16	6:50	6:53	5:10	7:25	5:01	7:29	5:25	6:59	6:05		
16	6:44	7:39	7:17	6:48	6:54	5:09	7:26	5:01	7:28	5:26	6:57	6:06		
17	6:45	7:38	7:18	6:46	6:55	5:08	7:26	5:01	7:28	5:28	6:56	6:08		
18	6:46	7:36	7:19	6:45	6:57	5:07	7:27	5:02	7:27	5:29	6:54	6:09		
19	6:47	7:34	7:20	6:43	6:58	5:07	7:27	5:02	7:27	5:30	6:53	6:10		
20	6:48	7:32	7:22	6:42	6:59	5:06	7:28	5:02	7:26	5:31	6:51	6:11		
21	6:49	7:31	7:23	6:40	7:00	5:05	7:29	5:03	7:25	5:33	6:50	6:13		
22	6:50	7:29	7:24	6:39	7:01	5:05	7:29	5:03	7:25	5:34	6:48	6:14		
23	6:51	7:27	7:25	6:37	7:03	5:04	7:29	5:04	7:24	5:35	6:47	6:15		
24	6:52	7:25	7:26	6:36	7:04	5:03	7:30	5:05	7:23	5:36	6:45	6:16		
25	6:53	7:23	7:28	6:34	7:05	5:03	7:30	5:05	7:22	5:38	6:44	6:18		
26	6:54	7:22	7:29	6:33	7:06	5:02	7:31	5:06	7:22	5:39	6:42	6:19		
27	6:56	7:20	7:30	6:32	7:07	5:02	7:31	5:07	7:21	5:40	6:41	6:20		
28	6:57	7:18	7:31	6:30	7:08	5:02	7:31	5:07	7:20	5:42	6:39	6:21		
29	6:58	7:16	7:33	6:29	7:09	5:01	7:31	5:08	7:19	5:43				
30	6:59	7:15	7:34	6:28	7:11	5:01	7:31	5:09	7:18	5:44				
31			7:35	6:26			7:32	5:10	7:17	5:45				

## Seasons and Daily Limits

ZONE/SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS (all dates inclusive)	BAG LIMITS DAILY POSSESSION		NOTES
NORTH ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS (excluding scaup)	Oct. 4-Dec. 2	6	12	a,b
SCAUP	Oct. 4-Oct. 10 and Oct. 31-Dec. 2 Oct. 11-Oct. 30	1 2	2 4	
COOTS AND MOORHENS	Oct. 4-Dec. 2	15	30	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON	Sept. 1-Sept. 10	5	10	d
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON	Sept. 22-Nov. 5	2	4	
MIDDLE ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS (excluding scaup)	Oct. 4-Nov. 30 and Dec. 6-7	6	12	a, b
SCAUP	Oct. 4-Oct. 17, Nov. 7-Nov. 30, and Dec. 6-7 Oct. 18-Nov. 6	1 2	2 4	
COOTS AND MOORHENS	Oct. 4-Nov. 30 and Dec. 6-7	15	30	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON	Sept. 1-Sept. 15	5	10	d
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON	Oct. 4-Nov. 10 and Nov. 27-Dec. 3	2	4	
SOUTH ZONE				
DUCKS AND MERGANSERS (excluding scaup)	Oct. 11-Dec. 7 and Jan. 3-4, 2009	6	12	a, b
SCAUP	Oct. 11-Oct. 24, Nov. 14-Dec. 7 and Jan. 3-4, 2009 Oct. 25-Nov. 13	1 1 2	2 2 4	
COOTS AND MOORHENS	Oct. 11-Dec. 7 and Jan. 3-4, 2009	15	30	b
CANADA GEESE EARLY SEASON (excluding Counties below) SAGINAW, TUSCOLA, AND HURON COUNTIES	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 Sept. 1-Sept. 10	5 5	10 10	d
CANADA GEESE REGULAR SEASON (excluding GMUs below)	Oct. 11-Nov. 13 and Nov. 27-Dec. 7	2	4	
GOOSE MANAGEMENT UNITS ALLEGAN COUNTY GMU MUSKEGON WASTE WATER GMU SAGINAW COUNTY GMU  TUSCOLA/HURON GMU	Nov. 8-10 and Dec. 20-Jan. 30, 2009 Oct. 14-Nov. 13 and Dec. 2-15 Oct. 11-Nov. 13, Nov. 27-Dec. 7 and Jan. 3-Feb. 1, 2009 Oct. 11-Nov. 13, Nov. 27-Dec. 7 and Jan. 3-Feb. 1, 2009	2 2 2 2 2	4 4 4 4 4	
CANADA GEESE LATE SEASON (excluding GMUs)	Jan. 3-Feb. 1, 2009	5	10	
STATEWIDE				
SNIPES AND RAILS	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	8	16	b, c
OTHER GEESE SNOW, BLUE, ROSS WHITE-FRONTED AND BRANT	Sept. 22-Dec. 16	10 1	30 2	

Notes/Exceptions

- (a) See daily limit restrictions for ducks and mergansers. The merganser daily limit is in addition to the duck daily limit.  
(b) See Youth Waterfowl Weekend section for requirements.  
(c) Daily limit is 8 rails (Sora and Virginia combined) and 8 snipe. The possession limit is twice the daily limit.  
(d) See 2008 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details on Early Goose Season in State Parks and Recreation Areas.

## Daily Limit for Ducks and Mergansers

The daily limit of 6 ducks may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a female), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 pintail and 1 black duck. Scaup daily limit changes from one to two depending on zone and season dates. See Seasons and Daily Limits Table. In addition to the duck limit, hunters may take 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be a hooded merganser. The possession limit is twice the daily limit for ducks and mergansers. Canvasback season is closed.

# MICHIGAN WATERFOWL HUNTING GUIDE

2008-2009 SEASONS



Great Lakes, Great Times, Great Outdoors

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

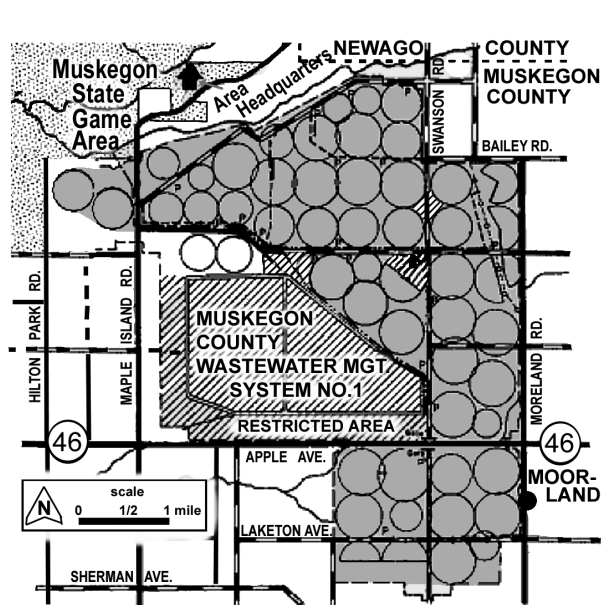
### Important Reminders for 2008:

- Canvasback season is closed.
- Daily bag limit for scaup changes throughout season.
- Daily bag limit for wood ducks increased to three.
- Zone changes for regular Canada goose season.
- Daily bag limit for early Canada goose season increased to five.
- Season dates and bag limit changes for Goose Management Units.



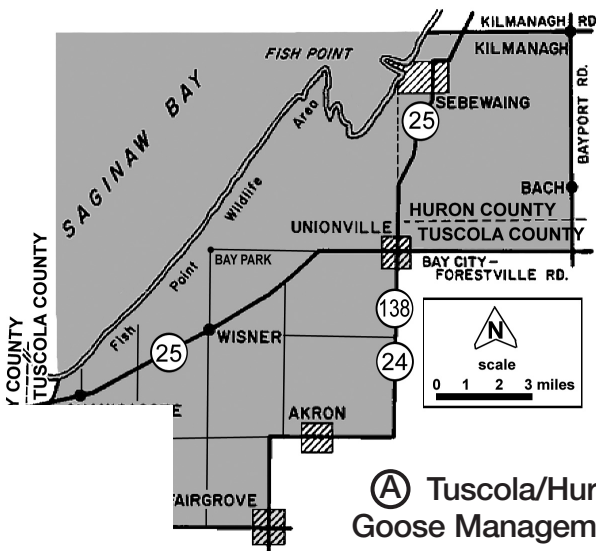


## GOOSE MANAGEMENT UNIT REGULATIONS



### © Muskegon County Wastewater Goose Management Unit

Oct. 14 - Nov. 13  
and Dec. 2 - 15  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese  
Hunts only Tues. (a.m.),  
Thurs. (a.m.), Sat. (a.m. and p.m.)  
and Sun. (a.m. and p.m.)  
during the season

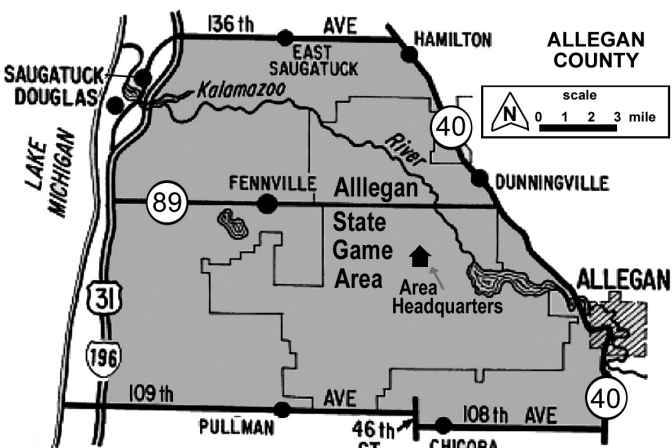


### A Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Unit

Oct. 11 - Nov. 13, Nov. 27 - Dec. 7  
and Jan. 3 - Feb. 1, 2009  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese

### © Allegan County Goose Management Unit

Nov. 8 - 10 and  
Dec. 20 - Jan. 30, 2009  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese



### 2008 Goose Zones:

■ **North Goose Zone**  
(the Upper Peninsula)  
Sept. 22 - Nov. 5

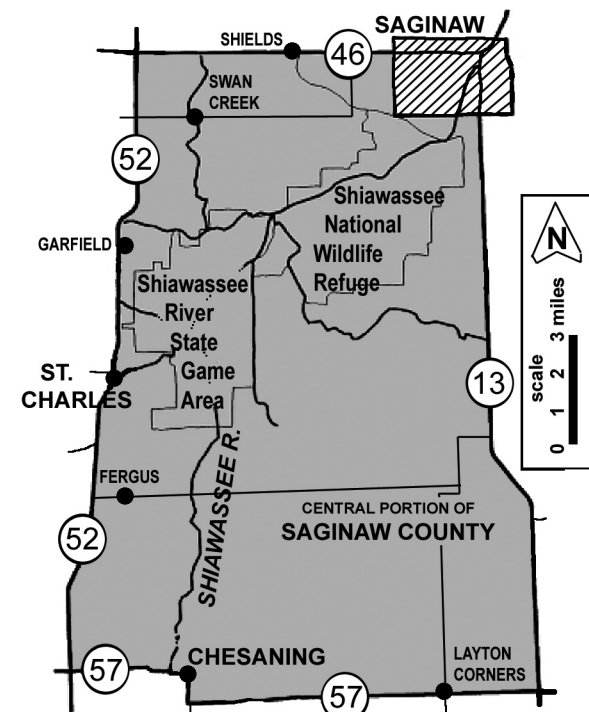
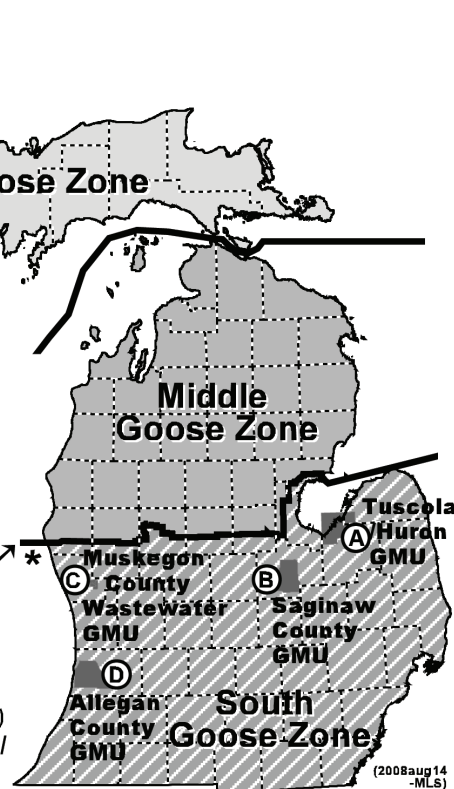
■ **Middle Goose Zone**  
(the Lower Peninsula,  
north of the bold line\*)  
Oct. 4 - Nov. 10 &  
Nov. 27 - Dec. 3

■ **South Goose Zone**  
(the Lower Peninsula  
south of the bold line\*)  
Excludes the four local  
GMUs: A, B, C & D.  
Oct. 11 - Nov. 13 &  
Nov. 27 - Dec. 7

■ **Local Goose Management Units (GMUs) A, B, C, and D**  
**have different hunt dates and season lengths.**

For specifics, see inset maps for each GMU, shown around this map, and read the details for each GMU

\* The bold divider line shown between Middle and South Goose Zones is the same as the line dividing the Middle & South Waterfowl Zones, and described elsewhere in this guide. For detailed descriptions of hunt unit or zone boundaries, contact a DNR Operations Service Center or go online to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



### B Saginaw County Goose Management Unit

Oct. 11 - Nov. 13, Nov. 27 - Dec. 7  
and Jan. 3 - Feb. 1, 2009  
Daily Bag—2 Canada Geese

## Type E Botulism

Type E Botulism is a disease that results when a toxin, produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum* is ingested, causing paralysis. This disease has been associated with fish and water bird die-offs on Lake Michigan in 2006 and 2007. Waterfowl hunters in the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula may want to take the following precautions:

- Harvest only waterfowl that act and look healthy.
- Intoxicated birds may be lethargic, have difficulty holding their head out of the water or be unable to fly.
- Wear rubber, plastic or disposable gloves while field dressing, skinning or butchering waterfowl.
- Remove and discard intestines soon after harvesting and avoid direct contact with the intestinal contents.
- Wash hands, utensils and work surfaces before and after handling any meat.
- Keep waterfowl cool (either with ice or refrigerated) below 45°F until butchered, then refrigerate or freeze.
- Cook waterfowl to an internal temperature of 165°F. Cooking may not destroy the Botulism E toxin.

RESTRICTION—No person shall take or attempt to take migratory game birds (including woodcock):

- With a trap, snare, net, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- With any firearm except a 10 gauge or smaller shotgun capable of holding no more than three shells. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells shall be plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.
- With the use of any single projectile shotshell. Bows and arrows are legal for waterfowl hunting.
- By the use or possession of more than one gun for each person in the hunting party.
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs who have been issued a DNR permit to take game from a standing vehicle may use a stationary motor vehicle, or stationary motor driven land conveyance. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat, power boat, or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, or any floating craft or device of any kind propelled or towed by power or sail, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress there from has ceased. A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft while under power or until forward progress has ceased. A loaded gun shall not be transported in an automobile, aircraft, motorboat or sailboat, motor bike, tractor, ORV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of hunters.
- From a sinkbox. (A sinkbox is a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.)
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls, imitations of bird calls, bird sounds, or imitations of bird sounds. Use of electronically or mechanically operated decoys that do not produce bird sounds or calls are not prohibited.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt, or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement), or on or over

## Falconry Season

Falconry is a permitted method of hunting migratory game birds. Rails, snipe, woodcock, geese, ducks, mergansers, coots and moorhens may be taken during the established firearm seasons in the respective zones and goose management units. In addition, ducks, mergansers, coots, and moorhens may be taken statewide by falconry during January 25 - March 10, 2009. The daily limit is 3 birds of single or combined species. Possession limit is 6 birds.

## Hunter Surveys

Some hunters are randomly selected each year to participate in state or federal harvest surveys, including collection of wings, tails, and other body parts. Accurate and complete reporting is essential for biologists to estimate the annual harvest and impact of hunting. Please do your part to help manage waterfowl by responding to surveys. The knowledge gained permits selection of annual regulations that maximize hunting opportunities while perpetuating healthy waterfowl populations for future hunters.

## Float Hunting

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowners bordering the waterway and their invited guests. Float hunters need permission to enter lands protected by the Recreational Trespass Act. You may float hunt public lands open to hunting.

## Avian Influenza

### What is avian influenza?

Birds carry many kinds of flu viruses, but recently a more serious type of influenza has developed. The technical name for this specific flu strain is Asian H5N1, but is commonly referred to as avian influenza (AI). This also is referred to as bird flu, avian flu, or highly pathogenic H5N1. Avian influenza began in Southeast Asia where wild birds and people acquired the disease from infected chickens. It also has spread to birds in other countries, but has not been found in North America.

### How serious is avian influenza?

Most types of AI do not cause serious harm. However, the Asian H5N1 type of AI is deadly to poultry and some wild birds – but it rarely infects people. Health officials are concerned about the disease because flu viruses frequently change. Currently, birds and people can only get AI from infected birds. If AI or some other flu virus mutates (or changes) so that people could pass the disease between each other, it would be possible for it

any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait. Non-food imitations—for example, plastic corncocks—are not prohibited.

IMPORTATION—For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66 or contact Senior Resident Law Enforcement Agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3800 Packard Road, Suite 160, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

POSSESSION AND TRANSPORTATION LIMITS—You may not possess or transport more than the daily limit of migratory birds at or between the place where taken and (1) your automobile or principal means of land transportation, or (2) your personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging, or (3) a commercial preservation facility, or a post office or common carrier facility, whichever one you arrive at first.

TAGGING; FULLY FEATHERED WING—No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- The hunter's signature.
- The hunter's address.
- The total number of birds involved by species.
- The dates such birds were killed.
- Current small game or sportsperson license number.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged. You may not transport any dressed or plucked bird unless one fully feathered wing is attached.

SHIPMENT—No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (1) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (2) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (3) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

HUNTING OR HAWKING HOURS—No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to hunting and hawking as prescribed. Reminder: During the hours closed to hunting a hunter shall not possess a firearm or bow and arrow unless the firearm is unloaded in the barrel and all arrows are placed in a quiver.

## Waterfowl Hunting Closures

In Grand Traverse County, Boardman Lake and those waters of the Boardman River lying north of Airport Road and south of the 8th Street Bridge are closed to waterfowl hunting.

In Roscommon County, Mud Lake, Lake St. Helen and the South Branch of the Au Sable River connecting these two lakes are closed to public waterfowl hunting.

There are also other closed areas in the state. Each is posted to alert hunters that they are off limits to hunting.

## Safety Zones Around Buildings

Safety zones are defined as all areas within 450 feet of an occupied dwelling, house, cabin, residence, or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person may hunt, or discharge a firearm within a safety zone or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird while the bird or animal is within a safety zone, without the permission of the owner or occupant of such safety zone. This applies to all hunters, including waterfowl hunters on lakes, streams, or rivers. The safety zone does not apply to target shooting or other non-hunting activities.

to spread to millions of people around the world, which is a pandemic. This mutation has not occurred and would be very unlikely; however, government officials want us to be prepared just in case.

### Are bird hunters at risk?

The risk to bird hunters is very low, but scientists continue to urge caution. Those humans that have been infected (which is few) have received the disease from poultry, not wild birds. However, wild birds carry viruses that spread mainly through their droppings, so avoid contact with fresh bird droppings, handle birds cleanly, and thoroughly cook your birds. If you observe a die-off of six or more waterfowl, gulls, or shorebirds please call the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at (517) 336-5030. If a single dead bird is found, either fill out the dead bird form at [www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases) or contact a local DNR field office.

See the 2008 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide, page 17, for precautions when processing wild game.

DAILY LIMIT—No person shall take or attempt to take in any one day more than one daily limit.

POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS—Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

WANTON WASTE—You may not kill or wound any migratory game bird without making a reasonable attempt to retrieve it and include it in your daily bag limit.

### DECOYS, BLINDS, RAISED PLATFORMS

- You may not leave decoys set out between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. in waters of the Great Lakes and connecting waters, and lakes wholly enclosed by publicly-owned lands.
- You may not erect or use a hunting blind on any public waters without permanently affixing to the exterior, in waterproof letters not less than three inches high, the name and address of the person who placed it there. Any unoccupied blind on the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair may be used by the first person to occupy it each day.
- You may not leave any hunting blind or part thereof anchored or affixed to the bottomlands of any public waters within the state of Michigan prior to Aug. 15 or later than Jan. 16.
- You may not hunt waterfowl with a firearm from a raised platform except over submerged bottomlands. Blinds or platforms constructed over public waters must meet marking and removal requirements.
- You may not use or occupy a blind on the waters of the state that does not comply with marking and placement requirements.
- Contact the Plainwell DNR office (269-685-6851) regarding blind rules for Allegan County.

FEDERAL REFUGES—You may not possess or carry firearms or bow and arrow or hunt or kill any game during the open season for hunting and taking of migratory game birds on any national wildlife refuge when posted to prohibit unauthorized entry, except on that portion of the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Saginaw County on which goose hunting is authorized by a daily hunting permit issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CAUTION—More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, ONE FEDERAL DR., FORT SNELLING, MN 55111, Telephone 612-713-5320.

DUAL VIOLATIONS—Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

REFERENCE—Hunters should consult the actual federal regulations related to migratory game birds which are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

## Non-Toxic Shot Rules

Use of non-toxic shot is required statewide for all waterfowl hunting. When you hunt to take ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, rails or snipe anywhere in the state of Michigan, you may not possess or use shotshells loaded with a material other than non-toxic steel, bismuth, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten matrix or other shot determined by the USFWS to be non-toxic. Waterfowl hunters using muzzleloaders must also use USFWS approved non-toxic shot. Shells loaded with lead shot may be used to hunt other small game species, including woodcock. NOTE: Check area rules and DNR Web site for non-toxic shot regulations for non-waterfowl hunting on managed waterfowl areas.

## Leg-band Reporting

Every hunter can promote sound waterfowl management by promptly reporting all banded and/or neck collared ducks and geese harvested including date and location taken. This information is used to determine annual survival, migration routes and contribution to the state harvest from different breeding grounds.

To Report Bands, Call 800-327-BAND  
or go online to [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov)  
or write:

USGS PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER  
BIRD BANDING LABORATORY  
12100 BEECH FOREST ROAD  
LAUREL MD 20708-4037  
[www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/)

## REPORT ALL POACHING Call: 800-292-7800 TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations.

The Natural Resources Commission is the governing body for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In providing a strategic framework for the DNR to effectively manage the state's resources, the NRC works closely with a broad cross-section of constituencies to establish and continuously improve natural resources management policy.

**NOTICE:** This brochure is not a legal notice, nor a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed guide issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of wildlife conservation orders can be obtained from our web site, [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act places an excise tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apportions these funds to state wildlife agencies to be used for wildlife management, research, habitat acquisition, game area and shooting range development and hunter education. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration funds has reached almost \$150 million.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.